

CONNECTIONS

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SOUTHERN STATES COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION

Association president takes stock

Smith, leadership team find ways to serve membership, preserve SSCA traditions

This is my second presidential column, but it is also my last. Having written about leaders' reluctance to relate their records to their rhetoric, it behooves me to revisit my 2005 platform for a sense of what we have accomplished and where we have still to go.

First, the 2004 Task Force on Participation identified a downward spiral of convention attendance and membership.

We had 560 members when we arrived in Tampa in 2004 and 747 when we left Louisville in 2007 — an increase of 33 percent. How did we do this? Because conventions affect both new memberships and renewals, poorly attended conventions caught SSCA in a whirlpool from which we had to escape.

Our conventions in Addison, Louisville and Savannah programmed record numbers of participants. I believe the key was getting away from the idea that SSCA allocated a finite number of programs to each division. Instead, we encouraged division planners to solicit programs, review submissions and rank order all those programs that their members wanted. The Vice-Presidents then did all we could to find space and time for them. The impact on our membership has been apparent.

Second, the Task Force was concerned that beyond our active and vital core membership 1,000 NCA members living in our region had not chosen to join SSCA.

This concern surfaced frequently at the 2006 Strategic Planning retreat hosted by Ken Cissna and led by Past-President Chuck Tardy. Jean DeHart helped us reconceptualize the Advertising Manager's role as a Marketing Director, and you have seen a much higher profile for SSCA in NCA exhibit areas.



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In the near future you also will be seeing surveys, brochures and other efforts by SSCA to reach out to your colleagues so that we can ascertain and address their professional needs.

Third, I believed in 2005 and I believe today that the President of SSCA must always strive to proactively fulfill our Constitutional mission "to promote study, criticism, research, teaching and application of the artistic, humanistic and scientific principles of communication." We have tried to address this mission in several ways.

Like my predecessors, I sought to program high quality research panels. But I also encouraged workshops so that we could make the most of our face to face interactions. SSCA can help our departments with workshops on SACS accreditation, leadership development for department chairs, graduate officers and basic course directors. But workshop proposals are elusive, and we may need to experiment with a Workshop Coordinator, assisting the Vice-President.

The Executive Committee discussed additional ways to encourage scholarship at the retreat and was impressed by the Central States Centennial Fund program. President Tardy asked Professor Andy King to chair an ad hoc committee exploring ways that SSCA might do something similar, and we anticipate that report and action upon it in Savannah.

Our most important permanent manifestation of our mission is our publication of The Southern Communication Journal. But we are the only

Please see **PRESIDENT**, page 2

Remembering Annabel Hagood

BY ROBERT E. FRANK

Many communication scholars came to the field via competitive debate. Modern day critiques of the debate activity often point out the disproportionate number of female debaters participating in the activity.

As regrettable as this fact is, the life and career of Annabel Hagood illustrates that women have had a powerful influence on communication and competitive debate programs.

A native of Mississippi, Hagood earned her degrees from Southwest Louisiana Institute and the University of Wisconsin. Hagood proved to be a towering influence in debate and communication studies in the South and nation. Her life continues to serve as a role model for young women in our discipline and co-curricular activities.

For 41 years, Annabel Dunham Hagood served as the

Please see **HAGOOD**, page 6



HAGOOD

INSIDE
THIS ISSUE

Director's
Remarks

Page 2

Convention
Registration

Page 3

Convention
Highlights

Page 4

UHC Paper
Presentations

Page 5

Caring
Connections

Page 7

President

Continued from page 1

regional communication association with only one publication. Would a second journal better fulfill our Constitutional mission, and if so what sort of journal should it be? This question has occupied our Publications Committee and the Executive Council for some time.

At our November meeting in Chicago we decided that the question should go to the membership for advice before any further action is pursued. That meeting suggests that this will not be an easy question to decide, but it is an important one for SSCA to address in the context of our mission.

We have all heard many people say that the Theodore Clevenger, Jr. Undergraduate Honors Conference is what SSCA does best.

But that does not necessarily mean that we do it in the best possible way. Because I

believe that any organization's high priority activities deserve that organization's attention, I asked Professor Derek Lane to chair an ad-hoc committee to review the UHC experience.

They are considering whether the current model of hosting the UHC at the convention hotel is most beneficial for the students, graduate programs and/or SSCA.

They are also considering whether the current panel format is preferable to the original seminar format.

The committee is also free to explore any other issue related to the UHC that they deem important. We look forward to their report in Savannah.

In short, your leadership team has worked to address the concerns I raised in 2005, but our mission never ends. SSCA must continue to find new ways to serve while preserving our traditions.

We must continue to adapt if we are to fulfill our Constitutional mission in a changing professional environment.

Convention is coming – you know the drill

The Savannah convention is coming fast and there are several things that you need to do, if you are planning to attend the convention.

First, make your hotel reservations: We have a great rate at a wonderful hotel, Hyatt Regency Savannah, but we have a limited number of rooms in our block (and when those rooms are gone, we don't have any more).

Plus the deadline is earlier than usual; it's Feb. 25. After that date, the great rates disappear even if there are still rooms. But we usually run out of rooms long before the deadline.

So, PLEASE book your room now. Just go to our Web site at <http://ssca.net> and click on the convention information link.

Second, buy your Caring Connections by filling out the order form on page 7 in this newsletter and mailing it before March 1.



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Third, PLEASE pre-register for the convention before the deadline of March 10. You'll save money and help us make the convention experience better for all.

To pre-register, please visit our Web site at <http://ssca.net> and click on the convention information link.

As always, if you have questions, please e-mail me at: director@ssca.net.

See you in Savannah!

Buy convention ad, spotlight program

I look forward to seeing you in Savannah. Our convention is located in a great hotel — close to the water and the candy shops! Please come by the exhibit area and visit with the book vendors.

We appreciate their continued support of SSCA. If you would like to reserve a table in the exhibit area to spotlight your programs, please contact me.



JEAN L. DEHART

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Are You 'Lost in [Cyber]Space?'

Please help us keep your membership information current by e-mailing us any changes in your postal mail or e-mail addresses. An e-mail from your preferred e-mail account to director@ssca.net with your name, postal address and e-mail address will enable us to keep members in good standing from being lost in "cyberspace."

In the Next Issue ...

- Savannah Convention Report
- Caring Connections Report
- Member Spotlight
- Norfolk Convention Calls & Info
- Officers' Reports

CONNECTIONS

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Savannah beckons to SSCA convention attendees

BY PAM BOURLAND-DAVIS

Local Arrangements Committee Chair

Expect to find a warm welcome in Savannah this April. Azaleas and dogwoods will likely be in full color if St. Patrick doesn't coax them to bloom earlier. And if so, the Spanish moss laden oaks or the river will beckon you outdoors.

The Hyatt is located between River Street and Bay Street in Savannah's historic district. It is approximately 8 miles from the airport, with taxi fare running approximately \$20 (as last reported). Once you arrive at the hotel, you'll find plenty to see and do within walking distance.

Competing with a packed SSCA program is any number of tours, haunted homes and the beach to name just a few.

Georgia Southern, as local host, is teaming up with the Savannah College of Art & Design to set up walking tours including an architectural tour. You will need to sign up for the limited number of spaces available so watch for forthcoming information as the dates, times and itineraries are finalized.

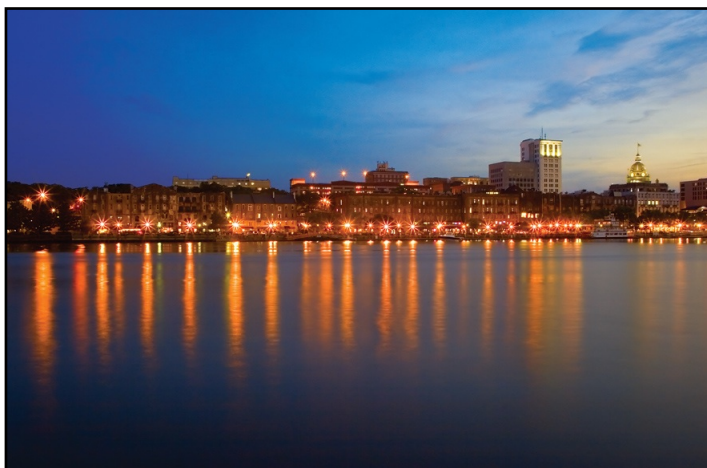
Many tours are also available from area vendors, including riverboat tours and historic tours — check out, for example: www.SavannahTours.com or www.Savannahriverboat.com.

You may notice "The Book" tour listed which is a reference to sites highlighted in "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil." For fans, one can visit the Mercer House and still eat at Clary's (great breakfasts) on Abercorn. With a car and a designated driver, you could even try martinis at Bonaventure Cemetery.

Trolley and carriage tours are also available. The trolley allows you to cover the entire historic district — from River Street to the beautiful and often photographed fountain at Forsyth Park. If you walk a few blocks in between stops, you can check out all 21 city squares as well. Go to www.historictours.com to find out more information about available tours and costs.

If you need a little scare, you'll find plenty of homes and tours with stories of the spirits of "America's most haunted city." These "haints" abound, and you'll notice the ceilings of many porches painted a "haint blue" to ward off spirits.

If other spirits are what you seek, Savannah Smiles Dueling Pianos Saloon and any number of other bars and restaurants provide wonderful locations to visit with friends. Just be warned that in the old days, many a drunken sailor woke to find himself serving duty on another ship, or so is told in the stories of The Pirate House.



Downtown Savannah, Ga., at night

A variety of local clubs sponsor private home or garden tours during April so the conference timing may allow for some unique views of the area. Watch the Savannah Convention & Visitors Bureau for more information: www.Savcvb.com or www.savannahvisit.com.

The conference time spans the traditional "First Saturday" where you'll find a variety of booths from food to arts and crafts. It's a great opportunity to sample Savannah in one convenient location down River Street. The River Street schedule also indicates that you can expect First Friday Fireworks. Fireworks over the river lined with centuries-old buildings is really a memorable treat.

If you're bringing family, consider a trip to the coast. The beach and lighthouse are about 20 miles away, with Ft. Pulaski on the way. It will be windy and likely a little chilly, but still a great afternoon for a picnic on the pier or for a jog along the beach.

If you haven't made reservations at the Hyatt yet, you'll want to do so now. And you'll want to try to make travel plans for the duration of the conference to ensure you have plenty of time to enjoy both SSCA and Savannah. If the Hyatt block fills up, you should be able to find other recommended hotels within walking distance of the host hotel.

Come with clothes you can layer as it could be in the 60s or 80s at this time of the year. Or come as you are and shop for what you need at the retail stores just a few blocks away. Most of all, be prepared to want to return to Savannah again very soon.

SSCA CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEES

	PRE-REGISTRATION	AT CONVENTION
• Regular Members (<i>see membership costs below</i>)	\$45	\$55
• Student Members (<i>see membership costs below</i>)	\$25	\$30
• Undergraduate Honors Conference Participants	\$50	\$50
• Non-members	\$65	\$80

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- LIFE: A one-time payment of \$1,250 (or four consecutive payments of \$325 equals a standing patron membership).
- PATRON: An annual fee of \$185 provides special support for SSCA, and includes convention registration fee, subscriptions to the four regional association journals and listing in the convention program.
- SUSTAINING: Annual fee of \$85 provides membership and convention registration fee.
- REGULAR: Annual fee of \$45 provides membership privileges.
- STUDENT: Annual fee of \$25 provides membership privileges and is available only to full-time students.

V-P has great expectations for spring conference

I have rarely looked forward to a conference as much as I am looking forward to our meeting in Savannah. The conference promises to be well attended.

Approximately 150 programs will be presented. The programs will include panels featuring excellent research and creative scholarly activities, spotlight programs featuring outstanding teachers and scholars, programs related to instructional innovations, and programs emphasizing the conference theme "Communicating to Change the Human Condition."

I am pleased that so many of our members, and colleagues from other regions of the country, embraced the conference theme and submitted their work. Here is small sample of what you can expect.

PROGRAMS RELATED TO THE CONFERENCE THEME

Several programs embraced the conference theme "Communicating to Change the Human Condition."

We were all affected by the tragic shootings that took place at Virginia Tech. Several of our colleagues there will present a program examining the role of communication in providing a broader context to understand the tragedy. The program will focus on communication, the campus culture and the immediate response to the tragedy.

Our colleagues will also discuss the role of communication in the ongoing process to heal the campus community and plans for the anniversary. Another thematic program will examine various aspects of hate speech and its effects. Several programs will focus on the capacity of instruction and service learning to have positive



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impacts on students and communities.

As a final highlight, a group of scholars will present a program showing how readers/interpreters theatre has changed the lives of senior citizens in their community.

PROGRAMS SPOTLIGHTING TEACHER/SCHOLARS

Both division program planners and the Vice President organized programs spotlighting the work of prominent scholars. Some of those programs will focus on the work of Ron Carpenter, Roseann Mandziuk and Michael Osborne.

Others will focus on scholars whose careers are just beginning. The panels will include teacher/scholars whose first academic appointments are at an institution in the Southern region.

PLENARY SESSION

The close of the first day of the conference will feature an address by Katherine I. Miller of Texas A&M University entitled "Communication and Care: Tensions in Personal and Professional Life."

Her presentation will focus on communication issues related to providing compassionate care to loved ones.

A SPECIAL EVENING EVENT

Arrangements are still being made for a

special evening event. We are hoping to screen an award-winning documentary film entitled "Darius Goes West." The film is a powerful vehicle to explore developing relationships while educating its audience about Duchene Muscular Dystrophy.

The film is significant to me because I know most of the members of the cast and crew. It features Darius Weems, an Athens, Ga., teenager who, before the making of the film, had never left Athens. Darius has DMD, the disease that took his older brother's life a few years ago.

The film chronicles the Darius' trip across country with a group of college students to raise awareness of, and money for DMD research. It has been screened at numerous film festivals and has won more than 20 awards. To see more about the film go to www.dariusgoeswest.com.

AN ENCHANTING CITY

Aside from a diverse and outstanding conference program, Savannah also offers a variety of historical and cultural opportunities for our membership.

There is a vibrant artistic community in Savannah with art galleries and museums within easy distance of the conference hotel.

Savannah also has a rich history related to the struggle for civil rights and the civil war. The city's civil rights museum and civil war historical locations are within walking or easy driving distance.

Savannah also has a rich and colorful nightlife. There are restaurants and clubs and vibrant river walk. You will have to try hard to not enjoy yourself in this wonderful city. I am looking forward to seeing you in Savannah!

Savannah Convention Notes

MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS EARLY

Everyone planning to attend SSCA's 78th Annual Convention, April 2 to 6, 2008, at the Hyatt Regency Savannah, Ga., is strongly encouraged to make hotel reservations early.

The Hyatt Regency offers great facilities and great prices. Space at the hotel will fill quickly at our low rate.

SSCA room reservations are dependent on space availability and are only guaran-

teed until Feb. 25.

You can find all the reservation information at: <http://www.scca.net/convention-info/index.php>.

CONVENTION PRE-REGISTRATION

Pre-registering is good for your bank account and it leaves you more time to have fun with your friends at the convention.

Plus, if you pre-register, you make the

registration staffers' lives a lot easier.

It is so much easier for us to have everything ready for you when you get to the convention.

Otherwise, you have to wait and we have elevated stress levels because there are long lines of folks waiting to register.

So, please pre-register, if not for yourself then for the sake of the poor volunteers who handle registration at the convention. It's easy, just go to our Web site: www.scca.net and click on the pre-registration link. See you in Savannah!

Make sure to attend UHC paper presentations

It is the time of the semester when students are busy writing papers and professors are working diligently to have those papers graded in a timely fashion.

I am wondering how this fall semester has gone by so quickly. Final exams are upon us.

That means undergraduate students also are busy preparing their best papers to submit to the Theodore Clevenger Undergraduate Honors Conference (UHC).

Presenting a paper at the UHC is a tremendous and rare opportunity for students to interact with a number of scholars to gain a fresh perspective on their research, to ask questions and to obtain feedback.

For some, this is a first exposure to a professional conference.

For others, it may be a chance to discuss plans for graduate school with professors from other institutions.



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Whether the participants are new to convention culture or are veterans, it is an exciting time to meet other students who share their interest in a particular area of communication.

The UHC will convene on Friday and Saturday of the SSCA convention. These dates were selected as a means of encouraging a large number of students to participate without their having to miss many

days of classes.

A breakfast recognizing all UHC participants will be held Saturday morning and the winner of the TOP PAPER award will be announced at that time.

Professors are asked to encourage their students to participate in the UHC and to attend the breakfast with their students. I hope that you will drop in on several sessions of the UHC to see what has captured these young scholars' attention, that you will provide them feedback for expanding their work and will assist their quest to know more about the communication discipline.

As I look to the future, I am making preliminary plans for the 2009 convention in Norfolk, Va. The convention theme is Crossing Ideologies: Communication and Collaboration in a Changing World.

In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you in Savannah at the UHC!

Journal names Houck as book review editor

I am honored and excited at the prospect of editing SCJ for the next three years.

I am particularly happy to announce that Davis Houck of Florida State University has agreed to be the next Book Review Editor, and I'm looking forward to seeing that section of the journal expand under his leadership.

Those of you with an interest in reviewing or those who have books they'd like to see reviewed may contact him at dhouck@fsu.edu.

I am excited about the editorial board, and am grateful that so many fine scholars have agreed to join and to continue their service to the journal.

Board members are representative of all areas of the discipline, are geographically diverse, and include some of the region's finest and most prolific senior and most promising junior scholars.

In other news, Taylor and Francis are planning to move the journal submission process to Manuscript Central at some point in the near future, so those of you who are planning to submit manuscripts can anticipate a streamlined process of handling submissions.

Until the new system is implemented, we'll continue to accept electronic submissions. The journal's email address is scj@gsu.edu.

In keeping with the journal's tradition of



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welcoming submissions from all areas in our discipline, Taylor and Francis have also graciously agreed to allow submissions using both APA and Chicago style.

It continues to be important for authors to make the case for the soundness of their methodology, the appropriateness of their theoretical perspectives and the significance of their work.

I am already lining up some special issues under the guidance of some terrific guest editors, and am open to hearing more ideas about topics of interest to SSCA members.

I look forward to talking with you at the SSCA meeting in Savannah, and continuing to hear from you about your ideas for the journal.

For those who may have missed this, here is the journal's editorial policy. If you have questions or comments, I can be reached at mstuckey@gsu.edu.

SCJ'S EDITORIAL POLICY

The Southern Communication Journal publishes original scholarship that makes significant contributions to understanding the processes and consequences of human communication. The journal is not limited with regard to topic, methodological approach, or theoretical perspective, although authors must establish the significance of the research, soundness of methodological choices, and appropriateness of theoretical perspectives. We seek to publish articles and book reviews that will be of interest to scholars, researchers, and practitioners across communication. SCJ employs a process of blind review, although the editor reserves the right to return without benefit of review manuscripts that are outside of the mission of the journal, are deeply flawed, or which do not conform to the guidelines listed below. Authors should submit their work electronically to scj@gsu.edu. Documents should be sent in Word, Word Perfect, or RTF. All manuscripts should include an abstract of 150 words.

The title page must include a title for the submission; information on all authors including name, title, affiliation and contact information for the corresponding author; preferred citation style (APA or Chicago); and a word count. Submissions must include (in a separate file): a cover letter providing a history of the work (including a description of and public presentation or publication of any part of the data set or portions of the manuscript and whether the manuscript is part of a thesis or dissertation); the name of the thesis or dissertation advisor; and assuring the editor that the submission is original research and not under review elsewhere.

Manuscripts should not normally exceed 25 double-spaced pages, including text, references, notes, tables, and figures. Writing must be free of sexist and discriminatory language. Upon notification of acceptance of a manuscript, the author must provide a copy of the completed manuscript as well as camera-ready copy of any artwork and figures, and must assign copyright to the Southern States Communication Association.

Sisco Excellence in Teaching Award needs support

This year the Resource Committee is trying to fully fund the John I. Sisco Excellence in Teaching Award at the \$5,000 level.

This award has a balance of \$873, so we have a long way to go. Please consider making a tax deductible donation to the Sisco Award. If everyone were to make a small donation of \$10 or \$20 we could easily reach our \$5,000 goal.

In addition to direct donations, you can raise money for this Award by purchasing Caring Connections for your friends and colleagues attending the Savannah convention. It is a quick and easy way to thank those who have supported you throughout the



**FRANCES
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RDC Chair

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last year. Caring Connections recipients are always pleased and honored to know that someone thought of them. Consider brightening a graduate student's or colleague's day by sending a Caring Connection.

Please fill out the Caring Connections order form on the next page of this newsletter. Those that are preordered by the deadline will be waiting with your recipient's name tag when he/she arrives at the convention.

Remember, Caring Connections should be preordered only for those attending the convention. If you wish to purchase an honor for someone not attending the convention, please come by the Caring Connections booth and purchase one you can mail to the person you want to honor.

The booth will be open during regular convention hours Thursday through Friday and half a day Saturday. If you would like to help me staff the booth, please e-mail me at FBB@shsu.edu.

Thanks for your support and I look forward to seeing you in Savannah!

Hagood

Continued from page 1

debate coach at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. Beginning her career in 1946 at the age of 22, Hagood's team won their first National Debate Tournament (NDT) championship title three years later, a feat that would be repeated in 1955.

According to the University of Alabama Web site, under her leadership, her students won "193 individual and team championships at the regional level and 23 national titles."

Her contributions to the debate world were not in competition alone.

Coach Hagood helped lay the foundations of the National Debate Tournament in ways that continue to flourish today.

When the United States Military announced that it would no longer be able to host the NDT championship tournament in 1966, Hagood stepped forward to form a committee that would evolve in the NDT Committee. She holds the distinction of serving as the first chair of the National Debate Tournament Committee.

Her leadership was also witnessed in other competitive debate and forensics organizations. She served as president of

the American Forensics Association, an association of which she was a founding member, and twice as president of Delta Sigma Rho-Tau Kappa Alpha, an honorary forensics society. She was an active member of SSCA, one of the few organizations to which she belonged of which she did not serve as president.

At the University of Alabama, Hagood stood out as a leader as well. In addition to serving as debate coach, she served for 11 years as the chair of the Department of Speech Communication.

In the mid 1970s, she was instrumental in establishing the Faculty Senate at the University of Alabama. Once it was in place, she served the first two terms as Senate President.

With her reputation in debate, she advised the organizers of the Kennedy-Nixon presidential debates in 1960. In 1976, she helped prepare Democratic candidate Jimmy Carter for his debates with Gerald Ford.

Her academic career also was acknowledged when she was asked to serve as a consultant to the U. S. Army's Senior Review Panel on Sexual Harassment in 1996.

Upon retiring from the University of Alabama in 1987, she opened a communi-

cation consulting firm, Hagood and Associates.

Her career in academia resulted not only in a plethora of awards for her students, but also earned her numerous personal accolades. It was only fitting that this woman who had contributed her life to academic debate received the first AFA Distinguished Service Award in 1979.

In 1986, the University of Alabama presented her with its Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award. In 1997, the university conferred upon her an honorary doctorate in recognition of her distinguished career.

In 2003, she was posthumously inducted into the inaugural class of the Alabama Speech & Debate Hall of Fame.

On Nov. 2, 2000, Annabel Dunham Hagood died after a struggle with cancer. But she lives on in the successes of her students and debaters.

And her legacy lives today as collegiate debaters continue to compete in the activity she loved so well and worked so hard to promote.

On the University of Alabama Communication Homepage, one of her former debaters described her: "She was dynamic, energetic, fiercely competitive, superbly gifted. A great debate coach."

Check out the SSCA Web site for updated association information at: www.scca.net

CARING CONNECTIONS PRE-SALE ORDER FORM

Please complete this order form and return it to Frances Brandau-Brown, School of Public Communication, Box 2299, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX 77341-2299, with a check for \$5 for each Caring Connection purchased.

Pre-sale orders must be received by March 1 in order to be processed and waiting for your honoree when he/she arrives at the convention.

Please note that Caring Connections are distributed to convention attendees only. If you wish to honor someone who is not attending the convention, then you may mail the honor yourself.

Your Name: _____

Your University Affiliation: _____

Honoree's Name	Honoree's University Affiliation

Number purchased: _____ X \$5 = \$ _____

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This newsletter is GARBAGE!

Many SSCA members favor electronic versions of newsletters rather than paper copies. One popular reason for relinquishing the paper version is Green.

By forgoing your paper copy of this newsletter, you help SSCA cut down on its use of paper products.

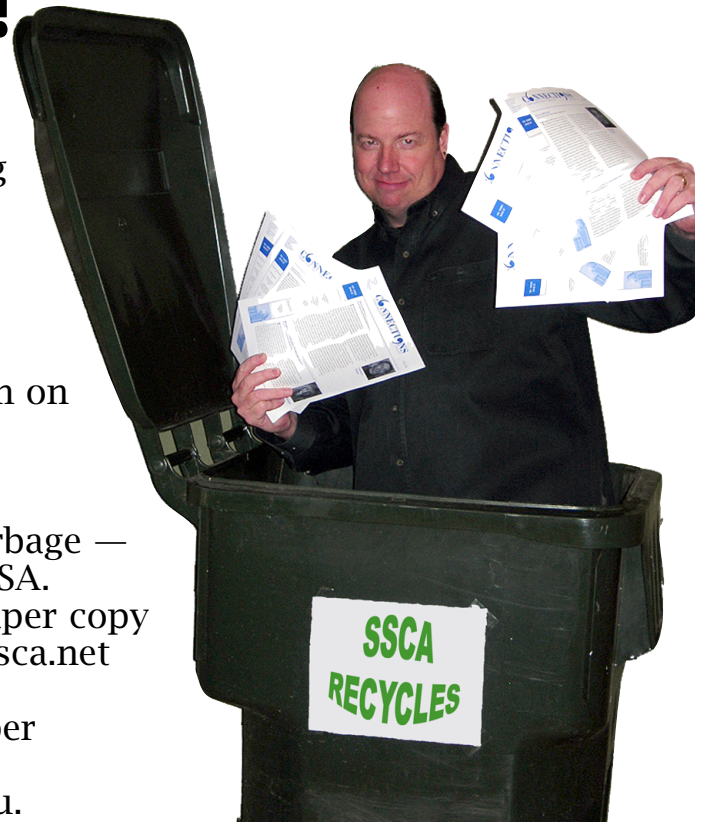
When SSCA uses less paper, it helps to protect our natural resources and cuts down on the waste and pollution associated with the manufacture of paper products.

It also reduces the inevitable disposal of hundreds of copies of this newsletter as garbage — the end result for most paper used in the USA.

If you would like to stop receiving your paper copy of this newsletter, simply e-mail director@ssca.net and let us know.

If you want to continue receiving your paper newsletter then do nothing.

We are happy to continue sending it to you.



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